

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 are presently under examination. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowability of claims 1 and 3-7. Claims 8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 remain rejected over cited art. Independent claims 8 and 49 are amended to depend from allowable claim 1, and claims 43 and 51 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 1. In light of these amendments, Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): U.S. Patent 5,609,276 to Greatbach ("Greatbach") in view of U.S. Patent 6,477,743 to Gross et al ("Gross")

Claims 8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 were rejected by the Office Action as obvious over Greatbach in view of Gross. Applicants respectfully disagree; nonetheless, in order to advance prosecution, independent claims 8 and 49 are amended to depend from allowable claim 1. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 8, 10-18, 49, and 21-29 all depend ultimately from claim 1. Accordingly, these claims are allowable at least for depending from allowable claim 1.

Independent claim 43 is amended to substantially include all the limitations of allowable claim 1. Therefore, claim 43, like claim 1, is allowable. Previously independent claim 51 is now amended to depend from claim 43. Thus, claims 45, 48, and 51, are also allowable for depending from allowable claim 43. Applicants submit that, in light of the amendments, the obviousness rejection of claim 8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

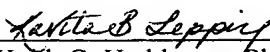
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of claims 1, 3-8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 and that the application be passed to issue.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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